



September 2026 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting is September 18, 2026.

Eradicating Waterborne Disease in the

Developing World by Richard R. Blodgett



Bright Water Foundation (BWF) is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the eradication of waterborne disease in the developing world. A thirty (30) minute power point presentation followed by Q&A is proposed to share the success story of the BWF model in Ghana, West Africa.

Rick is the founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Bright Water Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating cholera and typhoid disease in the developing world. For the past thirty (30) years, Rick has been the owner/director of Blodgett Research Institute for Waterborne Infectious Disease and the technical director for Water Environmental Testing Laboratory, a subsidiary of Blodgett Research Inc., in Shingle Springs.

Rick worked for 33 years as a Water Quality Chemist for the City of Sacramento. Prior to that he was a forensic scientist for the County of Sacramento Coroner's Office. Rick received his BS in Environmental Microbiology with a double minor in forensic science and chemistry. His Master's work was in molecular biology and biochemistry, and his Ph.D. is in public health epidemiology.

His major areas of research are in ground water microbiology, studying the biofilm formation of wells and distribution systems, and waterborne disease reduction in resource poor communities of the world.

Rick has volunteered as a member of the El Dorado County Search & Rescue team and as the logistics chief for the Office of Emergency Services. He was a scoutmaster for 25 years and is the proud father of 3 eagle scouts. His only daughter married an eagle scout.

**Location: Mother Lode Lions Hall
1-3 PM**

**4701 Missouri Flat Rd.
Diamond Springs**

The Book Group meets at the Placerville Main Library

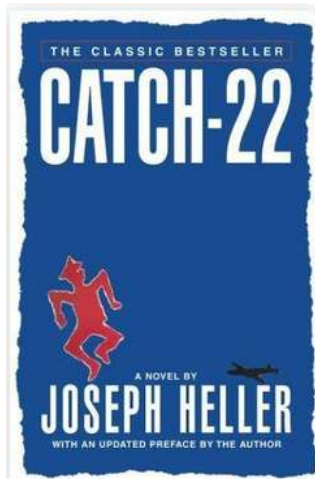
345 Fair Lane, Placerville

September Book

September 10th

Catch 22

By Joseph Heller



Fifty years after its original publication, *Catch-22* remains a cornerstone of American literature and one of the funniest—and most celebrated—books of all time. In recent years it has been named to “best novels” lists by Time, Newsweek, the Modern Library, and the London Observer.

Set in Italy during World War II, this is the story of the incomparable, malingering bombardier, Yossarian, a hero who is furious because thousands of people he has never met are trying to kill him. But his real problem is not the enemy—it is his own army, which keeps increasing the number of missions the men must fly to complete their service. Yet if Yossarian makes any attempt to excuse himself from the perilous missions he’s assigned, he’ll be in violation of *Catch-22*, a hilariously sinister bureaucratic rule: a man is considered insane if he willingly continues to fly dangerous combat missions, but if he makes a formal request to be removed from duty, he is proven sane and therefore ineligible to be relieved.

Sierra Renaissance Society of El Dorado County Calendar

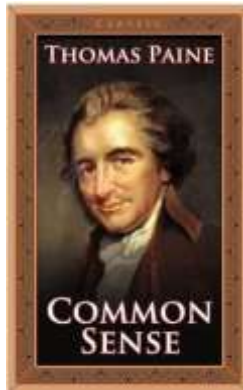
2026 Dates	Presentation Subject	Speaker
September 18, 2026	Eradicating Waterborne Disease in the Developing World	Richard Blodget
October 16, 2026	The Making of a Foundation: Sierra Nevada Foundation	Sarah Pender
November 20, 2026	SRS Biz Meeting & Sister Ships: Most Decorated Surface War Ships of WWII	John Bailey
December No Meeting	No Presentation	
All meetings will be held at the Mother Lode Lions Hall 4701 Missouri Flat Rd. Diamond Springs 1-3 PM		

October Book

October 8

Common Sense

by Thomas Paine



Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* is a seminal 1776 political pamphlet that successfully persuaded undecided American colonists to rebel against British rule. Widely reviewed as an accessible masterpiece of persuasive writing, it remains celebrated for its fiery, plain-spoken language and its radical dismantling of the divine right of kings.

Historical reviews and modern critical reception of the pamphlet include:

Colonial & Historical Reception: When published anonymously, it sparked immense controversy. Loyalists and British sympathizers, such as Nicholas Cresswell, viewed it as "treason" full of "false representations". Meanwhile, John Adams feared the pamphlet's sudden, explosive popularity among the people. Conversely, Thomas Jefferson praised Paine's ease, familiarity, and perspicuity of expression.

Modern Critical Consensus: Modern readers and historians, such as Gordon S. Wood, consider it "the most incendiary and popular pamphlet of the entire revolutionary era". Reviews on platforms like [Goodreads](#) and [The StoryGraph](#) highlight how effectively Paine's argues passionately for freedom.

What's Happening this Month and Next

Thursday
September 10th

Book Group meets 1-3 PM
Placerville Main Library
345 Fair Lane, Placerville

Friday
September 18th

Monthly Meeting
4701 Missouri Flat Rd, Diamond Springs
Mother Lode Lions Hall 1-3 PM

Thursday
October 8th

Book Group meets 1-3 PM
Placerville Main Library
345 Fair Lane, Placerville

Friday
October 16th

Monthly Meeting
4701 Missouri Flat Rd, Diamond Springs
Mother Lode Lions Hall 1-3 PM

A link to You Tube videos of previous presentations:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sierrarenaissancesociety6812>

A PDF of the newsletter can be found on SRSedc.com
website at the link below:

[Newsletter in PDF link](#)

Sierra Renaissance Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.